EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

MAY 13 2005

The Honorable Anibal Acevedo Vilá
Office of the Governor
La Fortaleza
P.O. Box 9020082
San Juan, PR 00901

Dear Governor Acevedo Vilá:

Thank you for your letter to Ambassador Zoellick regarding Puerto Rico's willingness to cover some of its procurement in the free trade agreement we are negotiating with Panama. Such commitments improve our ability to persuade Panama to open its sub-central procurement market to U.S. suppliers, thus creating new opportunities for Puerto Rican companies and workers.

As you know, I was officially sworn in on April 29, 2005. I am grateful and honored that President Bush has asked me to join his Cabinet as the United States Trade Representative. As I begin my service, I plan to pursue an aggressive agenda with a focus on opening new markets, enforcing our trade agreements and trade laws, spreading economic freedom, and working in close partnership with Congress. I look forward to working with you in this position.

We will keep you apprised of developments as the negotiations proceed. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Heilman Grier, Senior Procurement Negotiator, at (202) 395-9476 or email jean_grier@ustr.eop.gov.

I look forward to working with you and learning about issues that are important to you. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman